

and read from the Pulpits immediately after Divine Service.

Given at our Court at the Queen's Palace, this Fourteenth Day of January, One thousand eight hundred and seven, in the Forty seventh Year of Our Reign.

GOD save the KING.

*Downing-Street, January 27, 1807.*

DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, have been received by the Right Honourable William Windham, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-Colonel Backhouse, commanding a Detachment of His Majesty's Land Forces in the River de la Plata.

*Royal Charlotte (Transport) off Monte Video, October 13, 1806.*

SIR,

Understanding that a Vessel is to sail immediately for England, I do myself the Honour to transmit to you a Copy of a Letter, addressed to Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird, in obedience to whose Orders I sailed on the 29th of August last, with 1st Batt. 47th Reg. for the Purpose of joining Major General Beresford in South America.

*Royal Charlotte (Transport) off Monte Video, October 13, 1806.*

"SIR,

"I HAVE the Honour to acquaint your Excellency, that, on my Arrival here, I had the Mortification to find the City of Buenos Ayres recaptured, and that Major-General Beresford, with the Forces under his Command (after a most able and gallant Defence) had been made Prisoners of War, so far back as the 12th of August last.

"Having arrived last Night, I am not, at this Moment, sufficiently acquainted with the Particulars to enable me to detail them, though I presume due and full Information of this unfortunate and important Event, must have been transmitted to you soon after its Occurrence.

"You are aware, Sir, that the Command of His Majesty's Land Forces, at present in this River, devolves upon me, with which, in Co-operation with the Squadron under Sir Home Popham, it is my Intention to occupy a favourable Position, until a Reinforcement shall arrive, or I may be honoured with your further Instructions; and trust that, by an early Opportunity, I shall be able to afford you a satisfactory Report of my Arrangements and Operations in carrying your Designs into Execution. And am," &c. &c. &c.

*To Lieutenant-General Sir D. Baird,  
&c. &c. &c.*

The immediate Departure of the Ship for England, and the Situation in which I find myself, unexpectedly placed, prevent any further Communication than what is contained in the preceding Letter.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) T. J. BACKHOUSE,  
Col. commanding 47th Regiment.

*The Right Honourable William Windham,  
&c. &c. &c.*

*Copy of a Dispatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Backhouse to the Right Honourable William Windham, dated Maldonado, on the River de la Plata, 31st October 1806.*

SIR,

IN my Letter of the 13th Inst. I had the Honour to transmit a Copy of my Letter, of the same Date, to His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird, apprising him of my Arrival in the River Plate, and of my Intention to occupy a Position on Shore, to await his further Orders.

I, in consequence, immediately reconnoitred, from one of the Frigates, which carried me sufficiently close in shore for the Purpose, the Works of the Place, and the Positions and Defences in the Vicinity of Monte Video, from which I formed, as the most eligible Mode of Attack, the Idea of being able to carry the Town and Citadel by Assault, on the South Face edging on the Water, in Co-operation with the Ships of the Squadron, under Commodore Sir Home Popham, which were to silence the Batteries on that Face, so as to enable the Troops to land and enter. The Attempt was accordingly commenced, on the 28th, by the Navy; but the Water proving too shallow to admit of the Ships coming sufficiently near to cannonade it with Effect, a further Effort was necessarily given up.

Upon this I deemed it advisable, with the co-operative Concurrence of Sir Home Popham, to take Possession of the Town of Maldonado, as a favourable Position for the Purpose of refreshing the Troops, mounting my Cavalry, and carrying on such other Arrangements as might thereafter appear most necessary.

Not a Moment was lost; and accordingly on the Evening of the 29th, I landed with about Four Hundred Men, composed principally of a Part of the 38th Regiment, under Colonel Vassal, and advanced against the Town, which seemed to be occupied by about six Hundred Regulars and Militia, mostly mounted, with One Howitzer, and One long Four-Pounder Field-Piece, both Brafs.

Notwithstanding we were without any Artillery, the Enemy were soon dispersed, with the Loss of their Guns, and about Fifty Men killed and wounded. The Loss on our Side was Two killed and Four wounded, of His Majesty's 38th Regiment.

To the cool Intrepidity of our little Column on this Occasion, much Praise is due, as it advanced with the utmost Steadiness and Alacrity, and without firing a Shot, until sufficiently near to make a Certainty of carrying both the Guns and the Town, which was principally done by the Bayonet, notwithstanding the Advance was made under heavy Discharges of Grape and Musketry.

To the well known Gallantry and Ability of Colonel Vassal, I feel myself much indebted; and the Conduct of every other Officer in the Field has commanded my Thanks.

At Day-break Yesterday Morning I detached Colonel Vassal to take Possession of the heavy Batteries on the Beach of the Harbour, and on the Peninsula, which precluded any Communication for the Enemy between the main Land and the strong Island and Post of Goretta, situated in, and much commanding the Bay of Maldonado, and which, in Consequence, in the Course of the Day, surrendered at Discretion to a Summons sent from Sir Home